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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) In a Christmas tree stand having a base member, a tree-supporting post mounted on the base member and extending upwardly therefrom, a screw crank mounting opening in the upper end portion of the post, and a freely detachable screw crank member having a screw thread section at one end, an enlarged abutment adjacent said
5 screw thread section. and a hand crank at the opposite end, the screw thread section being insertable slidably through said opening in the post for threaded insertion into the side of a tree trunk, the combination therewith of screw crank securing means on the base member for releasably securing the detached screw crank member to the base member for storage when not in use and affording stacking of multiple tree stands for storage and shipment.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The combination of claim 1 wherein the screw crank securing means includes a socket member secured to the base member and configured to removably receive freely therein the screw thread section of the screw crank member, and a clip member secured to the base member and configured to releasably receive a portion of
5 the screw crank member intermediate the screw thread section and the hand crank end thereof for releasably securing the screw crank member to the base member for storage and stacking.

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Claim 3 (original) The combination of claim 2 wherein the base member includes a bottom annular ring, and the socket member and clip member are secured to the ring, the screw crank member being disposed for storage with the socket member receiving the screw thread section and the clip member overlying the screw crank member adjacent the handle end thereof, with the screw crank member extending across an arcuate portion of the ring.

Claim 4 (original) The combination of claim 3 wherein the clip member is arranged to secure the screw crank member under the clip member by resilient deflection of the screw crank member.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The combination of claim 1 wherein the screw crank member is bent intermediate the screw thread end and the handle end, the bend including an outwardly projecting arcuate portion defining an anvil aligned with the screw thread for striking by a hammer to set the screw thread into the side of a tree trunk.

Claim 6 (new) In a Christmas tree stand having a base member including a bottom annular ring, a tree-supporting post mounted on the base member and extending upwardly therefrom, a screw crank mounting opening in the upper end portion of the post, and a screw crank member having a screw thread section at one end and a hand crank at the opposite end, the screw thread section being insertable through said opening in the post for threaded insertion into the side of a tree trunk, the combination therewith of screw crank securing means including a socket member secured to the ring and configured to removably receive

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- the screw thread section of the screw crank member, and a clip member secured to the ring and configured to releasably receive a portion of the screw crank member intermediate the
- 10** screw thread section and the hand crank end thereof for releasably securing the screw crank member to the base member for storage, the screw crank member being disposed for storage with the socket member receiving the screw thread section and the clip member overlying the screw crank member adjacent the handle end thereof, with the screw crank member extending across an arcuate portion of the ring.

Claim 7 (new) The combination of claim 6 wherein the clip member is arranged to secure the screw crank member onto the clip member by resilient deflection of the screw crank member.

Claim 8 (new) The combination of claim 6 wherein the screw crank member is bent intermediate the screw thread end and the handle end, the bend including an outwardly projecting arcuate portion defining an anvil aligned with the screw thread for striking by a hammer to set the screw thread into the side of a tree trunk.